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Senate Group Invites Tips In News Censorship Inquiry

A Senate subcommittee organized yesterday to investigate suppression or censorship of Government news and invited the working press in Washington to submit examples.

Chairman Blair Moody (D-Mich.) said the group would welcome tips from newsmen on "road blocks in the way of the free flow of news" to which the people are entitled.

His subcommittee agreed on these objectives for the inquiry:

1. To investigate the effects of President Truman's order authorizing civilian agencies to suppress news of their operations when they deem the step necessary to national security.

2. To look into the reasons why the President issued the order, which news groups have denounced as a form of censorship.

3. To examine attempts by department heads or their em-

ployes to suppress legitimate news on grounds other than the President's security order.

4. To recommend corrective steps.

Moody and Sen. A. S. Mike Monroney (D-Okla.), both former newspaper reporters, cited two cases as examples of the sort of thing they want to examine.

One was the refusal of Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan to disclose last winter his reasons for firing Jack L. Coward, an Agriculture Department official. Later, Coward was indicted and convicted on charges of illegally taking fees

from persons having business with the department.

The second case is that of the Federal Trade Commission's refusal to release, even to Senators

who demanded it, a report of findings in an investigation of alleged cartel and monopoly practices by international oil companies.